

H.R. 2681 AND H.R. 2250

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the two bills, H.R. 2681 and H.R. 2250, are an affront public health and to our environment.

When we take our air, waters and land for granted; when we show a simple lack of respect for nature and our environment, we unmake God's good creation. Over 40 years ago, Republicans and Democrats passed the Clean Air Act because they believed that every American child deserved to breathe clean air. They believed that every American child deserved an environment free from toxic pollutants that cause cancer and impair their ability to learn.

EPA standards, like the ones attacked in this bill, did not run our economy off the cliff. EPA standards did not drive us into debt, or stop the banks from extending credit. But here we are, ready to stop common sense protections are 11 years overdue. If enacted, these bills would make damaging changes to the Clean Air Act. We would stop future EPA standards from protecting our children and our families from mercury and toxic air pollution. 2,500 lives are lost for every year these pollution reductions are delayed.

There are protesters right outside this building, Mr. Chairman. They want us to take up the American Jobs Act. They want it passed. They don't need another attack on the Clean Air Act. They don't need another attack on the public's health. We're wasting their time, Mr. Chairman.

It is my strong belief that our country needs environmental protections and that real protections do not have to come at the expense of jobs or our economy. Whatever we do to the earth, we do to each other. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

THE BREAST DENSITY AND MAMMOGRAPHY REPORTING ACT OF 2011

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this year, more than 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. We owe them every opportunity for early detection. Information on breast density can help both doctors and patients better understand a patient's risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer. This is why I am so pleased to join Representative DELAURO in introducing this extremely important piece of legislation. Mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers and aunts across America deserve all the information and resources possible when concerning their physical health. When we empower scientists, women and their doctors with knowledge, we take another step towards finding a cure.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, this year, a memorial honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was finally unveiled on the National Mall. This unveiling, which occurs during the presidency of the first African-American President of the United States, is, for many, the culmination of the movement for equality and civil rights that began with Dr. King in the 1950s and 60s.

However, those of us who have carried Dr. King's dream forward to the present understand that history isn't so neat and clean. While the arc of history does bend toward justice, it bends only because advocates for justice, peace, and human dignity have dedicated their lives to bending that arc through their leadership, determination, and sheer force of will.

My friend, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, is one of those people. From his days standing alongside Dr. King in Selma, to his groundbreaking run for the presidency in 1988, Reverend Jackson's commitment to an uncompromising vision of racial harmony and economic opportunity for all Americans has inspired millions.

Perhaps the work Reverend Jackson is best known for are his efforts to fulfill the promise of America's great democratic experiment. Our history books teach us that the America established by our Founding Fathers purported to endow each American with certain fundamental rights. However, we all know that certain residents of this country—African-American slaves, immigrants, women, and those without property—were left out of this original social contract. Reverend Jackson has spent his life trying to remedy this failing—to expand the membership of our social contract and ensure that everyone feels welcome in our big, loud American family.

That's exactly what Reverend Jackson was doing when he founded the National Rainbow Coalition in 1984 and later ran for President in 1988. All of a sudden, millions of new voters—the young, ethnically and racially diverse minorities, the poor, and the politically marginalized all felt like they had a voice and a candidate who spoke for them. For the first time, many of them felt like they had ownership and a stake in the direction of their country. They realized they had power. I'm certain that the young people currently making headlines with their "occupation" of Wall Street owe much of their movement's energy to the groundwork laid down by Reverend Jackson in 1988, when he reminded America that "people power" is the only surefire way to successfully challenge an entrenched and corrupt power structure that favors a wealthy few.

Jesse Jackson has spent the last 50 years bending the arc of history towards justice. It is hard work, and a lesser man might be getting tired. For Reverend Jesse Jackson, the work of creating a more perfect union continues. Just last week, he marched with me through the streets of Detroit and spoke out on behalf of 41,000 mothers and children in Michigan who risk losing their access to the basic ne-

cessities of life because of cruel and misguided government policies. He was there to give a voice to the voiceless. That's just what he does. Mr. Speaker, this is why I am proud to acknowledge Reverend Jackson on the floor today for his life, his tremendous legacy, and, most of all, for the work that is yet to come.

A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DR. MARY AGNA ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE GREENE COUNTY WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mary Agna for her induction into the Greene County Women's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Mary Agna, along with five other candidates, was selected from a pool of many worthy women to receive this honor, and thus, she was nominated for her great endeavors in the field of public health.

Dr. Agna was the first woman Health Commissioner in Greene County, where she served from 1963 until 1970. During this time she started the first home care program within the County Health Department. She was also an Associate Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the Wright State School of Medicine from 1979 to 1987, and, continues today as Emeritus Associate Professor. She also served on the State Public Health Council from 1974 until 1981. This council is the primary rule-making body for the State Department of Health. Her vision and leadership led to Greene County being recognized by the Ohio Council of Home Health Agencies and the Ohio Department of Health as one of Ohio's premier home health agencies.

Thus, with great pride, I congratulate Dr. Mary Agna for her exemplary service to Greene County and extend best wishes for the future.

PEOPLE'S MOJAHEDIN ORGANIZATION OF IRAN

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, last July, the DC U.S. Court of Appeals found that People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, PMOI/MEK, was not awarded due process when their petition to be removed as a terrorist organization was denied by the State Department. The Court ordered the State Department in conjunction with the Attorney General to review the decision and make a decision.

But I stand here today, over 500 days after the Court made this decision, and the State Department still has not given a response. Every day of delay means another day where peaceful MEK democratic leaders and activists are at risk.

Nearly 100 of my colleagues have joined together by cosponsoring H. Res. 60 to ask the State Department to heed a federal court order and remove Iran's largest opposition group called the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran, PMOI/MEK, from the U.S. list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations, FTO.

Because the U.S. needs to use its influence to protect Iranian dissidents fighting for democracy, Iran is using the U.S. terrorist designation to attack MEK leaders opposed to their rule. As long as the MEK is listed as a foreign terrorist organization, thousands of its members living in Camp Ashraf, Iraq are subject to further brutality by the Iraqi government. The longer we wait to remove the MEK from this list, the more we put Ashraf residents and fighters for democracy at risk.

STATEMENT CONGRATULATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, October 30 marks the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Republic of China, which is now on Taiwan.

Just as the United States is considered a cultural melting pot, the Republic of China represents a society that has found success in embracing openness and respect for all citizens. As closely related and longstanding trade partners, the United States and Taiwan have a rich history of cooperating to create economic growth.

Since passage of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States has been very supportive of the Republic of China, and, in turn, Taiwan has remained a friendly and faithful ally to the United States. America's support for the freedom, security, and stability of Taiwan stems from our shared foundation in individual liberty and from our mutual interest in defending peace and prosperity in the Pacific Rim region and throughout the world.

As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I am committed to enhancing and strengthening U.S.-Taiwan relations, and ensuring that the Republic of China continues to thrive as a free and democratic country. I am working with my colleagues to ensure that Taiwan has the capacity to defend itself from potentially hostile nations, and to perpetuate the democratic ideals that inspired its creation.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Republic of China on completing its first century as a nation, and in renewing America's commitment to our common defense.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESS LEADS BY EXAMPLE ACT OF 2011

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Congress Leads by Example Act of 2011, to subject Congress and the rest of the legislative branch to the federal workplace

laws and standards that protect individuals in the private sector and the executive branch. The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, CAA, was an important first step in making the legislative branch accountable to its employees, but it did not finish the job. While the CAA did bring the legislative branch under thirteen major civil rights, labor, and workplace safety and health laws, it exempted the legislative branch from important notice and training provisions, and altogether omitted important substantive and administrative provisions.

The Congress Leads by Example Act of 2011 is a follow-up to my 2010 investigation of Capitol Visitor Center, CVC, staff complaints and the recommendations from the Office of Compliance, OOC, which revealed a gap in authority to enforce the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, OSHA, provisions against the legislative branch. Last year, as chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, I held a hearing examining claims by the OOC of an estimated 6,300 safety hazards in the U.S. Capitol complex, as well as complaints by CVC guides that they were compelled to work in uniforms inappropriate for outdoor work in the summer and winter, and that they had limits on their water consumption. Our hearing demonstrated that many of the safety hazards had been resolved, and the Architect of the Capitol assured us that they continue to correct the outstanding hazards with due speed. Eventually, the formation of a union local by CVC guides led to specific improvements in uniform and water consumption practices and policies.

In the 2010 report, Recommendations for Improvements to the Congressional Accountability Act, the OOC, which was created by the CAA, identified additional provisions of federal workplace laws and standards that should be applicable to the legislative branch, including laws that grant the OOC General Counsel subpoena power, provide whistleblowers with protection from retaliation, and require the maintenance of employment records. In the 2011 report, State of the Congressional Workplace, the OOC presents the successes and shortcomings of the CAA by tracking the trends in legislative branch employee complaints and workplace safety hazards in fiscal year 2010. My bill takes into account the OOC reports, and seeks both to apply the standard of fairness to employees in the legislative branch that Congress requires for other employees and to provide a safer work environment for Capitol Hill employees by bringing the legislative branch further in line with what is legally required of private sector employers and the executive branch.

As Congress searches for ways to trim the federal budget, it would be timely to provide whistleblower protections to legislative branch employees so that they can report misuse of federal funds and other legal violations without fear of retaliation. My bill provides general whistleblower protections, also championed by Senators CHUCK GRASSLEY and CLAIRE MCCASKILL. My bill also makes applicable additional provisions under OSHA, including providing subpoena authority to the OOC to conduct inspections and investigations into OSHA violations and requiring the posting of notices in workplaces detailing employee rights to a safe workplace under OSHA.

This bill also furthers the CAA's mission to prevent discrimination by prohibiting adverse

employment decisions on the basis of an employee's wage garnishment or involvement in bankruptcy proceedings pursuant to the Consumer Credit Protection Act, CCPA, and Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy code. The bill also requires employers to provide their employees with notice of their rights and remedies under the CAA anti-discrimination provisions through the placement of signage in offices highlighting relevant anti-discrimination laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. The bill also requires legislative branch offices to provide training to employees about their CAA rights and remedies. Adding the CCPA and bankruptcy provisions will deter economic discrimination, while the notice and training provisions will empower legislative branch employees with the full knowledge of their rights.

Finally, the bill bolsters the CAA's record-keeping requirements. It extends to the legislative branch the obligation to maintain accurate records of safety information and employee injuries, as required by OSHA, as well as the employee records necessary to administer the anti-discrimination laws. The enhanced recordkeeping requirements will facilitate better enforcement of laws.

On the eve of the CAA's passage, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE may have best captured the intent of Congress and the will of the people when she remarked, "Congress simply cannot continue to live above the law and call itself a body that is 'representative' of the America we live in today. After all, what kind of message does Congress send to Americans when it sets itself above the law? What kind of message does Congress send to America when it believes it is beholden to different standards? And how can Congress claim to pass laws in the best interest of the American people if Congress refuses to abide by those very same laws . . . Congress should be the very last institution in America to exempt itself from living under the nation's laws. Rather, Congress should always be the very first institution to be covered by the laws of the land, especially as the body legislating such laws." By passing this bill and heeding this wise call to action, Congress will help restore the faith of the public in this institution by redoubling our efforts to exercise leadership by example. I urge bipartisan support of this important measure.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, here in America, we can walk in to our kitchen and turn on the faucet in order to get a drink of water. This routine has become so natural, that sometimes we forget how blessed our country is. Americans are lucky to be able to drink water without the fear that it could make them ill or put their lives in jeopardy. One young man in my congressional district became aware of how fortunate he was, and wanted to find a way to make a difference in the lives of those who did not have access to clean water. This young man, Nico Kroeker, began a business in October 2010 at 17 years old, in order to benefit people who are suffering from unsanitary water conditions.